



Ministry  
of Justice

**Lucy Frazer QC MP**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of  
State for Justice

Robert Neill MP  
Chair, Justice Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

MP ref:  
MoJ ref:

18 March 2019

Dear Bob,

**ANNOUNCEMENT: REVIEW OF ABUSES OF POWER IN SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS**

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Justice is leading on a review into abuses of power in sexual relationships, working with colleagues across government and engaging interested stakeholders.

The criminal law already provides a number of protections to deal with non-consensual and unwanted sexual activity and abuse, no matter what the perpetrator's occupation or relationship with the victim might be. We want to ensure that existing offences are being used effectively to tackle this behaviour, and that those working with young people understand their responsibilities and act appropriately.

There are already a range of offences in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which apply to those who seek to abuse their power to enter into sexual relationships with young people. Our review will look at these in detail, engaging with colleagues in the police and CPS to get a comprehensive understanding of how these are working in practice. If it appears that there are gaps in our current provisions or practise, we will consider very carefully how to address these.

We will be engaging with interested stakeholders to understand their concerns, and ensure that the relevant sectors are also playing their part in ensuring young people are not exposed to inappropriate behaviour while under their watch. We will also work closely with the police and prosecutors to establish how the existing offences are working in practice, and will consider how we can raise awareness of the existing law and the protections it already offers to young people.

I would be very happy to make my officials available to brief you and other interested Members of the Justice Select Committee about this topic.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House libraries.

**LUCY FRAZER QC MP**